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FARMER AND PLANTER.

DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, DOMESTIC AND RURAL ECONOMY,

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PENDLETON, S. C., APRIL, 1854.

No. 4.

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
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
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
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
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
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The Selection of Seed.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—I was pleased with an article in your Jan. No. on the subject of cotton seed. There is by far too little attention paid this most interesting subject. A farmer may possess a fertile and well managed farm in other respects, and if his seed are indifferent or defective, at gathering time his crops will speak out in language not to be misunderstood. And there is no crop more affected by defective seed than that of cotton—the great staple of the South—no seed more susceptible of improvement, and certainly none more remunerative. In my humble opinion no portion of time can be spent more profitably by the farmer, than that spent in selecting seed the best matured, most perfect, and most prolific in his cotton crop.

I will give you a short sketch of the plan I have adopted and pursued for the last few years: In 1848 I selected a few seed out of a field of *prolific* cotton (name not known) in the Brassos bottom, Texas—I brought them to Monroe county, Mississippi, where I reside, planted them in hills and realized a good yield. The next year I planted nine acres by step [dropping]: from this I selected myself seed enough from the best stalks, taking the best bolls from the stalk, to plant three acres. Again I selected from this three acres to plant as much more the next spring, and so on, while the balance of the good seed from the three acres (leaving the bottom and top) was

saved to plant fifteen or twenty acres, and from this twenty acres my entire crop is planted—thus renewing my seed every third year. I always make the *selection myself*, put the cotton in bags, put them in my store-room at the house, and when done ginning my crop, clean out the gin; spread down a cloth, gin the seed on it, put them again in the bags to avoid a possibility of mixing.—The general result without particularizing is, that since I have pursued this plan, I have made about a bag to the acre weighing 500 lbs. lint—this year past not quite so much, it having been one of the worst, if not the very worst years we have ever had for raising cotton on our black lands. This year past, off of 115 acres, I gathered seventy-three bags, averaging five hundred. I have raised as much as 2776 lbs. seed cotton to the acre, off the 20 acres alluded to above, securing the selected seed the first year, and there is always a marked difference.

I top my cotton invariably—not by the moon, or stars, or on any particular day, in any particular week, or month, but when I think the cotton has arrived at a “stage” to justify it. It must have on it a well developed bottom crop of bolls, when this occurs top it—early or late, rain or shine—cotton will never sucker when in this condition from topping. And I have the tops sacked and carried out of the field, or thrown in piles at the end of the rows, thereby destroying innumerable worms in the shell or egg. I do not wish to be understood to say that I destroy them all, only a part, and every one destroyed is that much gained. Cotton to do well, should never be much crowded. If it is a full development will not be the result. Very respectfully,

JAMES E. HARRISON.

Aberdeen, Miss., March 8, '54.

Diseases of Horses, &c.

Distemper, or Horse-Ail.—This disease occasionally extensively prevails among horses. It is often very severe, and unless properly attended to in season, it gradually reduces the horse to a skeleton, and often proves fatal. Badly managed cases sometimes cause glanders; otherwise the glanders are not common in this part of the country; it prevails most in the cold season, generally commencing in the fall. Horse-

ail is infectious, and very likely to occur, without infection, as it is common to young horses, which do not go from home, or come in contact with other horses that are infected.”

Symptoms.—Stoppage of the head, running at the nose, swelling in the throat, loss of appetite, dullness about the eyes, generally stupidity, and sudden debility. The symptoms are similar to those of a cold, or the influenza in the human race. It often causes a tumor under the jaw.”

Remedy.—E. Wood, Esquire, an intelligent correspondent of the Maine Farmer, recommends the following treatment:—Take a piece of skin on the breast and cut crossways through the skin, so as to make a hole sufficient to get in a forefinger, which put in and skin downwards and crossways the length of the finger. Fill the bag thus made with cut raw onion; then bleed, if the cough is hard and distressing, and feed with potatoes, if the animal can eat them—if not, give gentle laxatives. Under this treatment, he has never lost a horse or colt, and they have seldom lost much flesh.

Another.—We have treated horses in the following manner, with success: Make a slow fire of old boots, shoes, rags, herbs, roots, &c. When fired a little, smother them, so as to make much smoke and steam; then set a barrel without heads over the fire, and hold the horse's head down in the barrel, and smoke him well. This will soon produce a copious running at the nose, and he will be so well pleased, that he will voluntarily hold his head in the smoke. Continue this half an hour or more daily.—Meanwhile give him potatoes and warm bran mash, and gentle physic, if there be much costiveness, which the laxative food will not remove.”

Further Treatment.—In addition to other remedies, if the case be severe, and the blood has become bad, put a rowel in the breast; and if the swelling under the throat tends

to suppuration, encourage it by applying emollient poultices or blistering ointment, and fomenting baths: and when the swelling becomes soft, and the matter fluctuating, lance it. Blow snuff up the nostrills—keep the animal warm; give warm, soothing drinks; curry and rub frequently. Give a little walking exercise in pleasant weather, if the animal has strength to bear it without fatigue. Keep the head running and the bowels loose, and if the heat and fever abate, and the animal is poor, give tolerably nourishing food, continuing roots and mashies, to keep the bowels in a good state."

[*Col's Am. Veterinarian.*]

Cure for Virulent Small Pox or Scarlatina and Measles.

A merchant and ship owner of this city has had the following recipe sent him from England, where it was furnished by Mr. Larkin, member of the Royal College of Surgeons, and who vouches for it as a "medicine that will affect a revolution in the healing art, as regards the prevention and cure, not only of small pox, but also of measles and scarlatina, however malignant the type, in a manner more efficient and extraordinary than could ever have been hitherto anticipated, even by the most ardent philanthropist."

"On the first appearance of fever or irritation ushering in attacks, whether occurring in families or large communities, the subjoined mode of treatment should at once be entered on: Take one grain each of powdered foxglove or digitalis (valuable in the ratio of its greenness—the dark should be rejected) and one of sulphate of zinc (this article is commonly known as white vitriol. These should be rubbed thoroughly in a mortar or other convenient vessel, with four or five drops of water; this done a noggin (or about four ounces) more, with some syrup or sugar, should be added. Of this mixture a table spoonful should be given an adult, and two teaspoonfuls to a child every second hour, until symptoms of disease vanish.

"Thus conducted, convalescence, as if by magic, will result. The rapidity of an event so auspicious will equally delight and astonish. It may, however, be necessary further to note, that should the bowels become obstructed in the progress of this disease, an evil by no means common, then a drachm of the compound powder of jalap (formed of two parts cream of tartar with one of jalap) and one grain of the herb, treated as above formed into a pastil with syrup or sugar should be given to an adult, and half the quantity to a child. This simple medicine shuts out every other form or article whatever, as totally unnecessary, if not pernicious.

"The methodus medendi of these medicines, capable of effecting results so gigantic, remain now only to be given, and appears to be as follows: The herb, by its anti-febrile properties, lays hold at once of the fever, the prolific source of woe, which it immediately strangles, while the zinc acts the part of a tonic, instantly restoring the equilibrium."

Mr. Larkin adds: "No emigrant or government vessel should hereafter be allowed to put to sea without a few pence worth of these protectors; and it is farther ardently hoped that, as the dearest interests of our common humanity are so vitally involved in this discovery, the press of all countries will give publicity to this announcement."

[*Boston Courier.*]

LICE ON FARM STOCK.—When any stock is infested with lice, whether horses, cattle, sheep, or hogs, I give copperas in their food every other day, for six or eight days—say a tea-spoonful to a sheep. If the above directions are followed, I will pledge my word the prescription will kill the vermin, inside and out, leaving your cattle with a clean stomach and a healthy skin. The remedy is so simple you may not think it worth trying, but it is no humbug.

"Southern and Northern Slavery."

The New York Herald, in an editorial under the above caption, remarks:

"Turning to the statistics of Mr. Kennedy, as published in the Herald, of December 7, 1852, we find that the number of paupers in the six New England States of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont and Connecticut, who in 1850 were subject to charitable support, was 33,431, while, for the same year, the same class of persons in the six Southern States of Maryland, Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama, numbered, only 15,500. Of these, the native paupers of the New England States numbered, in round numbers, 19,000, while those of the six Southern States amounted to but 12,000.

RECAPITULATION.

Population.	Native Paupers.
Six New England States, 2,705,896	19,000
Six Southern States, 5,219,776	12,000

That is to say, the six New England States, boasting the highest elements of Northern perfection in free schools, free labor, free speech and free men, have an average of more than three to one native born paupers, as compared with Mr. Kennedy's official Returns of that class in the six Southern States of Maryland, Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama.—We select the native paupers, because the foreign are an extraneous element, affording no basis for a just comparison. And the same advantage will appear to the South in the comparative returns of the idiotic, the deaf and dumb, the blind, and the insane.

Why is this? What are the causes of these differences in these melancholy returns of wretchedness in favor of the South.—They may be readily explained. The population of the South is mainly agricultural—that of the New England States is chiefly occupied in manufacturers. The black slaves of the South, and the poorest of the whites have generally enough to eat, and air

enough for health and wholesome ventilation. The hired laborers of the North are to a great extent crowded into close and unwholesome factories; and on leaving their work they return to still more crowded and unwholesome cellars and garrets in towns and cities, reeking with unwholesome vapors. The plain but substantial fare, and wholesome cabins of the negro quarters of a Southern tobacco or cotton plantation, are, in truth, more favorable to health and longevity than the houses of many of our Northern working men in towns and cities, comparatively well to do in the world."

[*South Carolinian.*]

Durable White-Wash---Setting out Evergreens.

A correspondent in North Carolina asks for information on these subjects, to which we respond:

1. *Setting out Evergreens.*—It is not a settled point as to the best time to set out evergreens. Some contend that the fall is, others that the winter is best, some prefer early spring, while there are others who believe the month of June to be best. We believe that the great cause of success in the removal and transplanting of evergreens, consists in the care with which they may be removed and planted out. All the roots should be preserved that can be—it would be better that the entire ball of earth surrounding the roots should be left adhering to them—that they be planted as soon after being dug up as possible, that the trees after being set in the earth, to be surrounded with litter to preserve moisture, and that, until they give evidence of growing, they be watered whenever the weather may be dry.

White Wash Receipt.—It is more than we can undertake to say which is the best receipt for making whitewash. We will give several, and leave the choice of selection to our correspondent.

1. Take one peck of unslaked lime, put it into a tub, pour thereon a sufficient quantity of water to slake it; when slaked, add half a gallon of chamber ley, pour it in slowly, taking care to stir the slaked lime as the chamber ley is being poured in; then add as much water as will bring it to the proper consistency of whitewash.

2. Slake 1 peck of lime in a tub; then boil 1 pound of rice flour into a very thin paste, pour the paste slowly upon the slaked lime, taking care to stir well while the rice paste is being poured upon the slaked lime; then add as much boiling water thereto as will reduce the whole to the proper consistency of whitewash. As the whitewash is being applied, it must be stirred every time the brush is used.

3. Slake a peck of lime in a tub, add water until it be reduced to the consistency of cream, and when cold add as much new milk as will bring it to the consistency of whitewash. The milk must be poured in slowly, and the mixture stirred well. Let the wash be stirred well every time it is applied with the brush.

4. Slake a peck of lime in a tub, then dissolve half a pint of salt in water, stir that into the slaked lime; this done, add water to reduce it to the consistence of whitewash.

5. Slake one peck of lime in a tub, then boil 2 ounces of glue slowly until thoroughly dissolved, stir this into the slaked lime, and add as much water as will reduce it to the consistence of whitewash.

6. For inside work this is probably the best. Slake one peck of lime with boiling water, and when cool, add as much water as will reduce it to the consistence of whitewash.

7. *Lime Paint*—We have seen it recommended to slake a peck of lime into dry powder, and then add as much boiled linseed oil as will reduce it to the consistence of paint, and apply it with a painter's brush, the same as other paints are applied.

8. The following is given as the mode by which the wash is made with which the east end of the Presidents house at Washington is washed:

Take one peck of clean lumps of well burnt stone lime, slake it, add one half lb. of whiting, or burnt alum pulverized, one pound of pulverized loaf sugar, three pints of rice flour made into a very thin and well boiled paste, one pound of clean glue dissolved in the same manner as is done by cabinet makers, that is, boiled or simmered slowly. Mix the whole well together, and reduce to proper consistence with boiling water. For inside work it may be put on cold—for outside work it should be applied warm.—*American Farmer.*

INCOMBUSTIBLE WASH FOR THE ROOFS AND WALLS OF BUILDINGS.—Take of common water a quantity proportionate to the surface to be protected, and stir in potash as long as it will dissolve. When the water is perfectly saturated, stir in, first a quantity of flour paste, of the consistency of a painter's size; second, a sufficient quantity of pure clay to render the mass as thick as cream. When the ingredients are well mixed, the preparation is to be applied to the wood, and will be sufficient in protecting it from the action of both fire and rain. It is asserted by those who have tested its value, that wood-work exposed to intense heat, if coated with this cement, may be charred or carbonated, but cannot be made to burn.—When desirable a very agreeable color may be imparted to the wash by adding a small quantity of red or yellow ochre.

—*For the Farmer and Planter.*

The Oregon alias Rockymountain Pea.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Lest I confound the names of these two varieties of peas, I enclose you a specimen of what is known with us as the Rockymountain Pea, and desire your judgment in the premises. I make this demand upon your attention from your personal knowledge of the former, as I learned from the last (Feb.) number of the FARMER & PLANTER, in connection with which there is an article extracted from a Tennessee paper eulogising the merits of the former (Oregon) in the most fascinating terms, and offering the same for sale at \$1 per pint or \$80 00 per bushel.

The liability of mistaking one variety for the other, or the probability that they may be the same pea, is to be found in the proximity of their native localities. If the pea, therefore which I send you is identical with the Oregon pea, planted by you last year—then I have no further solicitude in the matter, as these were quite familiar with us as far back as 1853 and 1854, and whose reign expired about two years thereafter.

The description of the Oregon pea, portrayed in the article alluded to above, answers that of the Rockymountain pea so well that I am constrained to believe they must be the same pea—but in their nature,

character, and peculiarities. we were not so fortunate in making those valuable discoveries claimed for it by those individuals whose names are appended to the article.

I had the satisfaction of cultivating the Rockymountain pea in 1843 and 1844, but have not seen one since until this fall, when I met with a few that were left with a gentleman, here to be planted on shares, without knowing or giving their name, or ever having since called for them. The gentleman (in trust) has since given most of them away.

I was not aware if mine are the Oregon pea until I saw the extract in question, that they were a table luxury, or that "stock preferred them to corn, and that they were superior to corn for fattening hogs" and that "they will grow on the poorest land," nor were we aware that "they would improve land more than anything that can be grown upon it," neither did we know that the "oldest and poorest land is the place for them," nor were we apprised that "this pea would produce best on poor land, and will in our judgment reclaim the worst land we have any where."

With the great array of renovators for poor land which have filled conspicuous places in agricultural journals for years past—such for instance, as the clovers, green corn, and rye, the common pea, rescue grass the Florida coffee &c. &c., the inexperienced and unobserving is perfectly bewildered, and amidst his confusion, in endeavoring to determine as to their merits fails, probably, to adopt any.

The introduction of most of the new discoveries to the notice of the public in connection with agriculture, are rather too highly wrought to secure their immediate adoption. Consistency and plausibility are the controlling influences in giving directions to our thoughts and actions, and in the absence of either our suspicions are excited, and distrust created.

Admitting that still more might be said of this pea—the fact is not yet established that they can be propagated successfully as far south as this latitude. Oregon lies in latitude 44° to 49° we are in 32° . They might flourish here for a few years, after which they would gradually deteriorate, and eventually become worthless. Such is our experience and observation with Northern seed, and indeed we find none that are worth cultivating after the first year.

The seed which I send you were early and entirely abandoned, as being far inferior to the common varieties of our climate, either as food for man or beast, or as a renovator of land.

I enclose with this article, and the seed one dollar, my subscription to the FARMER & PLANTER for this year—all of which are at your disposal, Respectfully

B. A. SORSBY.

Columbus Geo. March, 1855.

REMARKS.—On comparing the peas sent us by our correspondent, with our "Oregon" pea we can discover no difference except that his are a little larger than ours, which is probably owing to the land on which they grew, and we are fully satisfied that they are the same except, in name.—From our very limited experience with them we cannot vouch for their possessing any of the superior qualities, quoted by Mr. S. from the highly wrought description which we re-published in our Feb. No. in which see our remarks. We think we were shown by the late Col. Joseph Taylor a few years since the same pea growing on his farm in our district, they were then about two feet high and we recollect he spoke in very high terms of them but cannot recollect the name given by him at the time, but think they were somewhere from the far west. Col. T. we believe abandoned their culture, but for what cause have never learned.—We recollect in comparing them with our common cow pea, that their superiority as a provender for stock, and as a green crop to turn in for the benefit of the land were two predominant qualities enumerated by our friend.

Since writing the above, we have learned from Col. D. S. Taylor, that it was the Oregon pea his father cultivated.—Eds F. & P.

The Oregon Pea.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—A friend has requested me to let him know something about the Oregon Pea: I prefer to respond through the Farmer and Planter. I was shown during the winter of 1852 and 53, by a friend some printed extracts from a paper published in Memphis, Ten., giving a very glowing account of that pea.

Maj. Robinson, my neighbor, having relations near Memphis, I requested him to write for some seed, which he did, but could get none. In the spring of '53 he received a few in a letter, and gave me about 100 peas

These I planted in checks of 3 feet square. Many did not come up—I think I had about thirty stalks to come up. These grew from 3 to 4 feet high, resembling in its appearance very much a stalk of cotton. They branch very thick, stand erect and do not go to vine, and keep all through the summer a dense shade, around the root. I did not try to make hay of them as I desired to save all the seed I could. And in the fall I gathered about a gallon of seed. Maj. Robinson planted the seed he had (about half a pint) in different places poorer and richer ground, to test the fact which was stated about them, to wit: that they done better on poor ground than on rich. He gathered about three bushels of seed, and told me they done full as well in the poor places as they did in the richer.

I found those I planted in the garden grew too heavy a top for the stalk, and several broke down with slight wind. One of these I hung up to see if the leaves would fall off when it dried, the account said they would not, and I found it true. I tried both horses and cows with this stalk and both seemed remarkably fond of the hay.

In October last the Rev. S. W. Jones, principal of one of the female academies at Anderson, and son-in-law to Bishop Capers, told me that by the directions of the Bishop (while he was away on his conference tour), he had cut down some of the Oregon peas, growing in the Bishops garden, at the following times. They were planted the 14th April, and on the 7th July he cut some close to the ground. These by the first of October were as large and as full of peas as part of the same row not cut. Some of the same rows were cut again the first of August, and then again the first of September. These last had grown 8 or 10 inches high, and had a few peas on them the 25th October, when I saw them. Not abundant, however, nor were they fully ripe, and were killed by the frost of the preceding night.

This experiment shows that two entire crops of hay may be got from them in this climate and if a good fall plenty of seed may be saved. For the seed ripened on those cut the first of August.

These are all the facts I know about the Oregon pea. And I do not wish to be extravagant about them for I have no seed to sell. But I am so fully impressed with their great value to the planters of this and all the Southern States, for hay as well as to improve

worn out lands, that I intend to plant what seed I have saved again in checks 3 feet square, one seed in a check, for I am anxious to make the most of them I can. I think it due to say that the accounts of this pea, published in the Tennessee papers, and copied into the February number of the Farmer and Planter, although thought of to be very extravagant, have been fully realized by the few experiments I have seen.

Respectfully,
March 27th, 1853.

R. F. SIMPSON.

From the Warrenton News.

Guano Compost.

DEAR SIR.—Agreeable to promise, I avail myself of a few spare moments to furnish you, for publication in the "News" with a receipt for Guano Compost to be applied to land before seeding or planting the crop.

If you intend this application of Guano to the October crop, measure the field as nearly as possible, then for every acre weigh out one hundred and fifty pounds Guano, proceed to seive it, taking care to pound the lumps until they shall have been dissolved and seived. When the entire quantity shall have been reduced in this wise to dust, measure it accurately, and for every bushel, add an equal quantity of leached or moistened ashes, one peck of plaster, (Lubec is the best,) and one peck and a half of ground alum or Liverpool salt. Mix the whole intimately with a long handled shovel and proceed to sow broad-east, thus: Having laid off the field into lands of nine or ten feet, take your best hands and sow the quantity designated for one land; taking care to sow half each way, so as to equalise its dissemination over every part of the field.

If designed for Wheat the same mixture, only I recommend two hundred, instead of one hundred and fifty pounds. If for Tobacco, two hundred and fifty or three hundred pounds.

With this compost, the last season, (and a very dry and unprofitable one it was,) on entirely exhausted ground, (I could not dignify it with the appellation of *Land*) I raised more than a ton of oats for every acre.

Without hesitation I am free to say its application has paid me extremely well on the Oat crop, its effects on the growth and maturity of Tobacco are almost incredible, and the land seeded in wheat last fall with 170 lbs. Guano, mixed as above, promises a

better yield than a very fertile tobacco-plot seeded two weeks earlier.

So convinced am I of its extraordinary powers as a fertilizer, (or producer I should say, of crops,) that I intend to enclose my poor exhausted old-fields, as rapidly as I can, with the view of extending the use of it for corn, as well as for small grain and and thereby save my forest land from which I must obtain my fuel, timber and ashes.

In dry seasons, guano often fails, being so arid in itself that its application to Tobacco Tobacco in the hill or to corn in the drill, often burns and frequently kills the plant; and inasmuch as we cannot know in advance what kind of a season is before us, I think it would be profitable to those who rely much on the use of the article to apply one half to upland and the other to moist or bottom land.

If a wet season the former would produce almost a double crop—if a dry one, the latter would produce equally well. Finally if an average season should happen, the crop would be good on each locality.

Very respectfully, M. J. MONTGOMERY.

Hal's Branch, N. C. Jan. 23d, 1854.

P. S. I forgot to say that in seeding Oats, I would sow the compost first—then the grain, and plow deeply, on upland—if on bottom, plow in the compost deeply, then sow the grain and harrow thoroughly. If wheat or tobacco, plow the compost in deeply, sow and harrow until a fine tilth is produced.

MORTAR FOR CHIMNEYS.—In building a chimney, put a quantity of salt into the mortar with which the inner courses of brick are to be laid. The effect will be that there never will be any accumulation of soot in that chimney. The philosophy is thus stated: That salt in that portion of the mortar which is exposed absorbs moisture from the atmosphere in every damp day. The soot thus becoming damp, falls down to the fire place. In consequence there is never any accumulation, and as it is only a little that there is to fall, no inconvenience results. This appears to be an English discovery. It is used with success in Canada.

[*Lewiston Journal.*]

THE MANGE.—This disease I am told, is much more troublesome, with hogs in the Southern States, than it is in the North;

when once a sty becomes infested with it, it is almost impossible to eradicate it, yet by repeated applications of lime wash, it can be done. The best preventives that I have knowledge of, and those that I have for years applied with success, are in the first place, to have a board floor in the sleeping apartment of their sty, then a moderate supply of wheat straw well strewn over with ashes, at least twice a week, being careful to remove all the old bed on applying the new. I also use all the soap-suds made from the washing of clothes, &c., in mixing their feed. If they are inclined to mange, I use freely of sulphur in their feed.

Hogs are frequently annoyed by what is commonly called *kidney worms*—when this is the case, they devour their food eagerly; yet remain lank or poor. For that I use copperas pulverised and mixed with their food, say a teaspoon full daily to each animal for a week, or even more, unless his condition is bettered. In it there is nothing to fear; it will not injure a healthy animal—By adhering to these directions, with a good breed, with just attention to feeding in winter, and a good supply of clover for summer owners may be at all times ready to exhibit to their friends their swine.

[*American Farmer.*]

PRESERVING BACON FROM THE FLY.—I am induced by motives which every housekeeper will appreciate, to communicate through your valuable journal, the following effectual and simple method of preserving bacon from injury by the fly or skipper.

When your bacon is smoked early in the spring before the fly has made its appearance, take quick lime slacked to a dry powder, and rub the meat, thoroughly on every part with it, leaving it adhering as much as possible; hang up your meat, and rest secure from any trouble from insects.*

I have tried the above method (communicated to me by an experienced housekeeper) and so well satisfied am I with the experiment, that I consider it of sufficient importance to be made public. I have tried many other means for preserving meat from the fly, but this is the only certain remedy I have ever yet found.—*I bid.*

AUG. SHRIVER.

Farm Content, Carroll Co. Md. Feb. 2, 1854

*We have never tried this remedy, but, would rather risk our black pepper remedy, than any other.—*Eds. F. & P.*

Sheep Husbandry in Tennessee---Legislative Honors to Mr. Cockrill.

The Nashville correspondent of the Memphis *Eagle* writes as follows, under date of Feb. 16:

A resolution was introduced a few days since in the House, to present Mark R. Cockrill with a gold medal, as a mark of approbation for his exertions in behalf of the agricultural interests of the State. Several interesting speeches were made on the occasion, both for and against the proposition. Amendments of various kinds were proposed, more for the purpose of defeating the resolution than anything else; but in the face of all opposition it passed by a triumphant majority---49 to 22. This action should meet the approbation of every man in the country interested in agriculture, and should give an impetus to this branch of industry. But a medal to Mr. Cockrill was peculiarly appropriate. The principal field of his exertion, was laid out by himself, and as an experimenter, he has proved eminently successful. Grain, cotton and tobacco were the staple productions of the State, and all seemed satisfied with the generous returns made by these products. Mr. Cockrill believed that a still wider field of enterprise might be opened in the State, by the culture of wool, and "solitary and alone he sat the ball in motion." The result has proved that he was right; and Tennessee through his exertions, has been brought into competition with all other countries, as a grower of this article, and at a "World's Fair" in each Hemisphere, has been successful in bearing off the prize. Spain, Saxony and other European localities, which have heretofore been admitted as the only growers of the finest descriptions of wool, have been rivaled and surpassed by a single wool-grower of Tennessee. This should be an encouragement to all who have the means to embark to some extent in this enterprise. Cotton does not command a more certain sale, and in the face of a largely increased supply, prices have been constantly advancing, until the returns are now, perhaps, more remunerative than any other article requiring an equal amount of capital.

Mr. Cockrill has not only gained character, but fortune, by his devotion to this subject. A visit to his plantation, situated six miles from the city, would delight the eye of the agriculturist. It contains thousands of acres divided into fields, pastures, groves,

&c., all in the most perfect order. His sheep flock amounts to nearly 3,000, ranging in price, I am informed, from \$50 the pair, to an amount largely above that. But his attention is not devoted entirely to the culture of wool. In his various pastures may be seen fine blooded cattle, horses, and stock of almost every description, which require no more attention than those ordinarily raised---but which bring prices much higher.

I have devoted more space to this subject than I intended, but many of your readers are, or should be, interested in it, and it may not be time thrown away. It would have been gratifying, had the same honor been extended to your worthy and accomplished fellow-citizen, John Pope, Esq., who has done more than any other, in creating a reputation for Tennessee as a cotton-growing country, by receiving the prize at both World's Fairs for the finest bales of this article.

The editor of the *Eagle* thus alludes to the above; and his closing remarks are, unhappily, "over true:"

TRIBUTE TO THE FARMER.--Our Nashville correspondent refers to the medal voted to Mark R. Cockrill, the eminent Tennessee wool-grower, for his distinguished success as a farmer. We are surprised there should have been a single vote against it. If it had been to do honor to some successful military chieftain, these opposers would most probably have been among the first to support it. The "glory" or bloodshedding is adapted to the comprehension of the *lowest* capacity. The truer and higher glory, however, of achievements such as those of Mr. Cockrill, is "caviare to the million."

SKIPPERS IN BACON.--I cure my hams with salt, sugar and salpeter; after remaining down four weeks, as I take up the hams from the salt, I rub each piece on the flesh side with fine black pepper, and then hang up and smoke, a dark brown color, with green hickory wood, and then hang it up till wanted for use. Sometimes they have hung two years. Before I commenced using the pepper, I had to take my hams down and pack in ashes in the spring of the year. The above plan will prevent skippers in bacon.

ESSENCE OF CELERY.--Steep an ounce of celery seed in half a pint of brandy, or vinegar. A few drops of this will give a fine flavor to soups, and sauce for fowls.

From the Southern Cultivator.

To Prevent Weevil in Wheat.

Messrs. Editors:—In looking over the *Southern Cultivator* for last October, I find an extract from the *Dollar Newspaper*, in which two plans are given to keep weevil out of wheat. I am thus reminded that during the last harvest, I wrote an article on this subject for the *Cultivator*, but neglected to forward it.

To come short to my point, *let wheat be salted*, and weevil will never infest it. I have followed this plan from 1834 or '35 till now, and have never lost any wheat by weevil after salting it. So certain is this plan to save wheat, that I never sun mine at all. I let it stand in the field in dozens for 10 or 12 days, then thresh, fan and salt it away at once. If it be dry enough to thresh well, it is dry enough to salt away. I use half a pound of salt to the bushel of wheat. As it is measured into garner or hogsheads, I sprinkle the salt, and stir after each measure. If the house be dry, wheat is certain to keep well on this plan.

I got this plan from the *Tennessee Farmer* in 1834. A farmer of East Tennessee communicated this as his plan, based upon 15 years experience. I have forgotten his name, but well remember his statements.--- He said that salted wheat remained new as long as you might desire to keep it. That is, it does not shrink by time, and it continues to yield as good and as much flour as when first harvested. All these statements I have found to be true, by the experience of 18 years.

Now, all farmers know that wheat, put up in the usual way, diminishes in bulk as it gets older. (i. e. the grains gets less) and that it will not yield as much or as good flour, as when it was fresh from the field. This change is prevented by salting. I prefer the Kanlaway salt, because it all dissolves and is soon absorbed by wheat. If you examine it 8 or 10 days after salting, it will be found damp, with dissolved salt on the surface of the grains; but some weeks afterwards it will be found dry, having kept cool all the time. The salt enters into the grain and makes the flour saltish, but not enough so to interfere with any of its culinary use. Let us now sum up the advantages of this mode of saving wheat.

1st. It preserves the wheat with more certainty than sunning.

2d. The wheat does not lose in volume or

weight by long keeping.

3d. It makes more and better flour.

4th. It costs much less labor.

5th. The wheat is better for seed, because it is preserved in its perfect state. There is not salt enough in it to prevent it from germinating, but there is enough to stimulate it to sprout vigorously.

I suppose that after all the cost of labor in sunning, near one-fourth of all the wheat produced in the valley of the Mississippi is either lost by weevil or badly damaged.--- This is no small item of loss, when the aggregate crop is considered. Were all farmers to salt their wheat, this enormous annual loss would be prevented; and then no one would ever make bread of wheat, not quite spoiled enough to give it to the pigs, and yet too bad for any person to eat. I have seen wheat saved by salting after the weevil were in it.

In 1836, for want of house room, my wheat was put in hand-stacks as it was hauled up for threshing. When about half done hauling, it occurred to me that weevil might get in it before we should get ready to thresh it, I therefore salted the remaining wheat as it was put up in stacks; and it was fortunate that it was done, because the weevil ruined all which was not salted, while those stacks, which were salted, remained uninjured. In 1852, there were four separate parcels of wheat put up in my barn; three of them were salted, and the fourth was not. All three of the parcels salted kept perfectly sound and free of weevil, but the one not salted was ruined by the weevil. I think Indian Corn might be saved by salting.

* * * * *

It is best to unite the two principles, here set forth, in saving wheat: that is, it should be kept dry and salted too. Because, if it be put up moist, so much salt would be required to save it, that it would make the flour too salt for any use, and the vitality of the grain would be destroyed, so that it would be unfit for seed.

F. H. GORDON.

Sugar-tree Farm, near Rome, Tenn., Jan. 1854.

WEEVILS.—These troublesome pests may be kept out of grain by using salt. Sprinkle a little fine salt on the bottom and around the sides of the box as you fill up, and over the top when full. Wheat kept in old salt barrels will never be destroyed by the weevil.

Transactions of the Southern Agricultural Association of the Planting States.

Black Seed Cotton in Middle Florida.

To the Agricultural Association of the Planting or Slaveholding States:

GENTLEMEN—The Executive Council of your Association, at a meeting held on the first of October in the city of Montgomery, in Alabama, did me the honor to appoint me to address your Association, at its meeting to be held at the city of Columbia, South Carolina, on the first day of December, on the subject "Blackseed Cotton in Middle Florida, the success of its culture, &c."

This is a distinction as unexpected, as unmerited. And were I to yield to the impulse of my feelings, growing out of a consciousness of my inability to instruct, or entertain, I would send a respectful apology, declining any attempt to fulfill the appointment. But the attachment I bear to the planting or "slaveholding States" of this Union, their interests and institutions, forbid that any effort of mine to serve them in any capacity whatever, shall be withheld.— And although it is entirely out of my power, to enjoy the pleasure or advantage of meeting with them at Columbia, on the 1st of December, they shall have all I know, and what in my best judgment I *think* in reference to "Blackseed cotton in Middle Florida."

The export staples of the United States, now control an influence in the commerce of the Nations, and of the world, that is commercially speaking, Omnipotent. The "planting or slave States" produce those staples; it well becomes them, therefore, to consider the importance of each, as effecting the general aggregate. And it is doubtless a subject of enquiry proper for an association, who has undertaken to investigate and develop the powers and resources of their particular geographical location, as well as those which grow out of their peculiar institution; as they effect the basis of commerce, immediately and prospectively. The Association, with some such views as these, doubtless, have enquired as to the "Black-seed Cotton in Middle Florida, its culture, &c."

It is known that the Black-seed, or Sea-Island cotton is the variety of that plant first introduced and grown in the United States, and has held a place among our staple exports ever since its introduction.

The peculiarities of the plant confines it

to certain localities or latitudes, which has restricted its culture to an area of country, small, in comparison with that of the green seed. The superiority of this staple, the length, strength and fineness of its fibre, in connexion with the fact that it can be grown only within a limited space, gives it great value in the market. Again: This extra value as a staple forbids its introduction into any but a limited class of fabrics, which class must increase or diminish, mainly in proportion to the cost of the growth of the staple. Hence the necessity of knowing the extent of the area of its production.

The middle district of Florida lies between the thirtieth and thirty-first degrees of north latitude, and is bounded on the East and West by the Suwannee and Apalachicola rivers, and enjoys a climate very favorable to the growth of Black-seed cotton. The killing frosts cease early in the spring, and commence late in the fall; affording length of season for its maturity.— This is a point of great importance to success in growing this variety of cotton, because although it is more luxuriant and vigorous, and attains to much greater size, and is a more hardy plant, than the green seed, yet it is slower in maturing, and enjoys more the advantages of long seasons.

On the subject of the mode of culture, It may be said that there is no material difference in the mode of treatment of the different kinds. The planter of skill, knows that reference must be had to the peculiar nature and habits of the plant, and he who would succeed well, must carefully supply its wants under and above ground, by a proper preparation of the land before the seed is planted, that it may send out its host of roots for its supply of food, with a certain prospect that they will be enabled to furnish an abundance in time for its use.— Room should be given for the plant to enjoy without let or hindrance, as much of the exhilarating breeze and genial light of the sun as is necessary for its full development. The great length of the tap root indicates the necessity of very deep plowing in preparing the beds; the plant with its numerous branches declares the necessity of giving ample room.

The soil of the Middle District of Florida is, I think, well suited to the production of Black-seed cotton. Although not aware of a particular analysis having been made of any of our very great variety of soils. The

observation of a practical planter who has had enough of science in his education, to enable him to distinguish between the elements which compose the ordinary soils, will find no difficulty in arriving at the conclusion that the proportions of silice, alumen, and vegetable matter, are in proportions here, to render the soil productive. The appearance of limestone on the surface in many places, with a knowledge of the fact that it is the base on which the whole country rests, proves the presence of lime for the most part in sufficient quantity.

The climate, not less than the soil, is favorable to the growth of the class of plants to which the Black-seed cotton belongs.—The bright light and genial warmth of a sun almost verticle, is as potent in its influence in the development of the cotton plant, as the soil upon which it feeds. And in this particular, very few locations on the earth can excel middle Florida. The experience of the country is in accordance with what one would expect from this view of the soil and climate. The Black-seed cotton, has been planted in middle Florida to some extent from its earliest settlement after the session to the United States, and so far as I know, its culture has been attended with profit. It has never constituted a large proportion of the export crop grown here—not because it has not been a remunerating crop, but because so large a proportion of the emigration to middle Florida has been from such portions of the older states as produced the green seed cotton, which also rewards labor well here. Their former pursuits led them to adopt the staple with which they were acquainted—with the culture, management and preparation of which, for market, they were already qualified. Their investments and labor thus employed were profitable and there was no wisdom in changing, unless large profits invited to a new pursuit. Besides, the preparation of the black-seed cotton for market is much more tedious and troublesome than the green-seed, requiring much time and patience to acquire the necessary skill to succeed well. And our planters, as a class of men, having caught the progressive spirit of the age, could not brook the delay they must suffer in learning new and tedious processes, have driven on in the beaten track, leaving to a few who have formed exceptions to the great masses to work out the problem of the relative profits re-

sulting from the culture of the two staples. And while on this part of the subject, I express the opinion that the same spirit of impatience of delay, and aversion to attempt new things will always prevent the great masses of our planters from adopting the black-seed as their staple. The green seed will always pay well here, as long as it does any where, and will probably continue to be the great staple of middle Florida. Nevertheless, this is no argument to prove that the country cannot produce the black-seed profitably, or that a large increase in its production here may not be anticipated, when the market price is such as to induce its culture.

The capacity of middle Florida to produce this staple may be estimated by reference to its present production of green seed, for it may be safely laid down, that within her limits the black-seed will grow where the green seed does. And on a large amount of our pine lands where the green is not profitable compared with other lands, the black-seed is, and a general adoption of that as the export staple would introduce its culture on those lands.

The cotton crop of middle Florida may be set down at this time at between 30 and 40,000 bales. It is considered by our planters who have been engaged in the culture of the black-seed, that thin lands yield in that staple about 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. of what they will in green seed. This would make the crop at present, if planted in black-seed exclusively, about 20,000 bales. And when it is considered that a large proportion of the fine lands of the country is yet covered by its native forests, and an immense amount of productive pine land untouched, it is difficult to estimate the extent to which this staple may be grown here.

[On the subject of the quality of the staple that may be grown here, there is some difference of opinion. It is thought by some that the finer qualities cannot be produced in middle Florida.] I am not prepared to admit that proposition, though I am not prepared to assert that it can. No test has ever been made. The coarser qualities of black-seed have been preferred, because they are generally more productive, and planters have preferred to make up in quantity what they lose in quality. I am not prepared to say that if some of the fine descriptions were introduced from sea islands of South Caroli-

na or Georgia, and prepared for market with the skill and care used there, that middle Florida might become a dangerous competitor in fine sea island markets.—

[The soil, climate, salt air, and every other element of production of the finer kinds of cotton exist here. And the only thing wanting, is, probably, skill and care in the preparation.]


[The experience of the country in reference to production of this staple may be stated at about 150 to 200 lbs. clean cotton, or from 600 to 800 lbs. of cotton in the seed per acre, for an average of five years or more; and a fair field hand will cultivate 8 acres, making an average result of 1200 lbs. per annum. The quality of the cotton will rank with the description known in the Charles-to market as mains or Santees. This estimate is made for such plantations as make their own supplies.]

The middle district of Florida, enjoys very great advantages in this respect. And it is to be spoken to the credit of her planters, that they devote much time and attention to this very essential branch of their business. Corn, oats, peas, potatoes, pork, beef, and sugar cane, constitute a list of articles generally raised in sufficient abundance for their comfortable support leaving the staple export, surplus.

In estimating therefore the production of a hand in middle Florida at 1200 lbs. black-seed cotton, and preparing it for market, his share in producing the articles of supply above alluded to is included.

In conclusion, it may be relied upon as correct, that middle Florida has capacity, in extent of area, fertility and climate to increase the production of black-seed cotton when ever the prices of that staple may invite to its culture, to an extent that will very materially affect the supply. And the versatility of her producing powers—the great variety of her staples, and the facility with which the energies of her people may be profitably changed from one stable to another, gives her eminent advantages as a producing country.

JOHN C. M'GEHEE.

 In marriage prefer the person before wealth, virtue before beauty, and the mind before the body; then you have a wife, a friend, and a companion.

For the Farmer and Planter.

Book-Farming, Rescue Grass, Cotton Gins, &c.

Messrs. Editors—I am exceedingly gratified at the change in the form of the Farmer and Planter, and no less pleased with its matter. It does appear to me that the individual who takes no paper of its class, is guilty of *Agricultural suicide*, (if I may be allowed to coin a phrase,) and receives a just retribution, if not in short crops, in the additional labor necessary in many cases, because of his ignorance of the improvements in agriculture.

I know it has been said that “book-farmers” are generally “corn buyers,” and the honest plodding never-varying uneducated farmers are frequently the “corn sellers.” This may all be true, but effects should always be attributed to their proper causes. The failure in the one case cannot be the result of his science, but results from a want of proper application of his science to practical purposes; and in the other case, his success would be much greater by combining true science with his indomitable industry and perseverance.

By the way, if the “Rescue grass” possesses all the good qualities ascribed to it by your correspondent, B. V. L., in the last No. I have no doubt there will be a demand for all the seed he can spare next summer. I for one shall want a *peck of it*.

Your notice of the cotton gins of Messrs. Henderson and Chisolm, suggests the propriety on my part of a remark or two in regard to an improvement of immense importance in the cotton gin, lately made by a mechanic in my neighborhood. I was at his shop a few days since and saw a beautiful model, nearly complete, which he is forwarding to the patent office, (he is going to obtain a patent). [The great advantage of this gin over every other ever made, is, First, it *picks* about twice as much a day as any other. It will pick *ten bags* a day—machinery run by horse power. Any person doubting it may satisfy himself by addressing Charles Bell, of Bell's post office, Fairfield district, who has ginned his last crop on one of them. Another great advantage is, that the *roll in the seed box* never breaks, consequently it *cannot be choked*. You may pile five thousand pounds of seed cotton on the gin, and it will gin itself out, so long as the cotton will fall in the seed box. I have

seen it tried myself. Another is, it may be said to be a *self cleaner*. In ordinary gins, you have to stop and clean your gin very often three or four times a day. I am informed that Esq. Stewart of York District, ginned 90 bags, his whole crop, and did not clean it once, and finally, it is what the patentee calls *rat tight*. You do not have to take your brush out to keep the bristles from being destroyed. By a simple contrivance it can be closed up so that you might keep a cake of cheese in it and defy the mice. I make this statement without his knowledge, believing that the community have an interest in the improvement, and there is no secret about the matter. If you think my description of this gin will be of interest to the public, you can use it as you please.

L. McDONALD.

How Many Acres to the Hand?

MESSRS. EDITORS:—My occupation for the past fifteen years has caused me to travel all through middle Georgia, almost annually. It has been my business to notice the farming interest closely, as my dealing has been with them entirely, and I have noticed with profound astonishment that a large majority of men, so intelligent too, should, with all the lights before them, pursue a course of farming so suicidal to their best interests. It does really seem to me, from the present appearance of this once fertile country, (all things considered, it might once have been called the garden spot of the United States,) that to kill and cripple, had been the great end, after which, as above stated, a large majority of the planters had been struggling, and the dilapidated fences, and barren hills, together with the diminished forest, all give the most indubitable evidence of the success which has crowned their unenviable efforts in a course so injurious and ruinous to their best interests.—And where are all those planters gone to?—They have moved off to various sections of country, where, from the same course of farming, the same results will follow as a necessary consequence. Is there no remedy for all this waste of land? I think so. And by your permission I will, with due deference to the opinions of others who think differently, place before the readers of the *Soil of the South*, for their reflection, some improvements, as I think, upon the present plan of farming.

I shall assume this position: That 150

acres of cleared land, is as much as any 10 hands can cultivate properly, and upon that 150 acres they ought to raise as much cotton, corn, wheat and oats as they could gather in seasonable time. "What!" says one of these land killers and cripplers, "the man must be crazy. I work but 8 hands, and I cultivate 160 acres in cotton and corn, and have no land to spare for small grain, and this is the reason why I have to move:—it is that I may purchase more land, so as to raise small grain to answer my purposes." Does not your mind recur to many planters who left old Putnam, the garden spot of Georgia, for just such reasons as above described.

Now, sir, it is my purpose to show to a demonstration, that 150 acres is altogether enough land for 10 hands to cultivate and by a proper system of culture, I think will do all I have said. In the illustration of my position, I appeal to you as an umpire between the two systems, and by your decision I will abide.

Let us run a parallel of the two systems of farming. The "old style" first. A planter we will say, has 160 acres of open land. How does he plant it? 100 acres in cotton and 60 in corn—twenty acres to the hand. That, I believe, is about the usual number of acres apportioned to the hand. To cultivate that number of acres there is no time for making or spreading manure, all hands are kept in a perfect rush from Christmas to Christmas, and take five years together, what may we put an average of the crops at? Let us deal fair. 100 acres of cotton at 300 lbs. per acre, we think a fair average, will give us 30,000 lbs.; 60 acres of corn at 12½ bushels per acre, will give us 750 bushels all told. Now what is this worth? We will say, for the sake of argument, that the cotton is worth \$2 per hundred in the seed.

That will give us - - - - \$600 00
750 bushels corn at 50 cts. pr. bu. 375 00

That gives us the sum of - - - \$975 00
or \$121 87 per hand, and the land becoming worse every year. Under this state of things the farmer may well and truly look out for a better country.

But what is the mode of culture advocated by the *Soil of the South*, as I understand it? We will now take one square of land, 202½ acres, 150 cleared and the balance in the woods. We will put upon that farm 10 hands. Two of those hands we will keep

all the year around, gathering materials to make manure, and haul it out where it is needed, and that is wherever you plant corn or cotton; there you want manure. I will then apportion the crop as follows: 70 acres in cotton; 30 in corn. That will be 10 acres to the hand, counting the two which we have engaged in hauling manure. Now, sir, with the manure which those two hands can gather and spread upon the farm, what may we put as an average for five years? I wish to be fair in my estimate. To come in the bounds of the most fastidious minds, I will put the average at 30 per cent. below what I know I can show to have been the average, of just such lands too, as brought the 300 lbs. without the manure.

I will put 70 acres in cotton, at

600 lbs. which gives us,.....42000 lbs.

30 acres in corn at 35 bushels,.. 1050 bu.

I now have twenty acres for wheat, which I will put down at 10 bu. per acre, that will give us.....200 bu.

I have also 30 acres of oats, which put down at 1500 lbs. per acre gives us 45,000 lbs.

RECAPITULATION.

42,000 lbs. of cotton, at \$2 per hundred,\$840 00

1,050 bushels corn at 50 cts. per bu. 525 00

200 " wheat at \$1 per bu..... 200 00

45,000 lbs. oats at 30 cents, (low).. 135 00

\$1,700 00

for our 10 hands, or \$170 per hand, and \$48,12½ advantage in cash per hand, with an annual increase in the value of the land, of at least 10 per cent. However, this is the opinion of your old friend, ABNER.

Our old friend and correspondent Abner, is on the right track, and we hope will have nerve enough to withstand the jeers and the example of the masses, who differ with him. We have known many, who theoretically agreed with him, in his notions about the propriety of setting apart a portion of the hands on the farm to make a business of preparing manure, but have seldom known one whose faith was strong enough to show itself by its works. We hope Abner may prove an exception to this rule. With his figures, we need have nothing to do; they are stubborn things, and will in due time speak for themselves. We shall be glad to hear their report, and while we wait to allow time for it to be made out, we hope the active investigating mind of our correspondent will be casting about for other thoughts

for our columns. We shall always be glad to hear from him.—*Soil of the South.*

Farmer's Clubs

Our attention is recalled to this interesting subject by an engagement that we had undertaken and have fulfilled,—to deliver an Address in encouragement of the formation of a Farmer's Club at West Boylston, Mass. Prominent among the originators of this movement, and most active in ensuring its success, here, as in most occasions of the kind elsewhere, were the ministers, the physicians, and the mechanics of the town.

We will not stop now, to inquire why it is that these members of a community are often—we would be safe in saying *usually*—more earnest to acquire greater knowledge of the cultivation of the earth, and more active in seeking out and obtaining the best means to this end, than most farmers;* and are oftentimes the most successful cultivators, especially of fruit and garden vegetables. But that the facts are so, in many cases, an examination would convulsively prove. * *

The value of a Club is not generally appreciated, or no town would long consent to be deprived of its influence. In the first place, at these conversational meetings, held once a week, or twice a month, members become accustomed to speak in public, and to express their views with ease. Most men, without practice, are frightened at the sound of their own voices. When they rise upon their feet to address an audience the thoughts that filled their minds desert them. Almost every speaker will confess to a like experience. But, by degrees, one acquires a self-confidence, which enables him to feel as much at home on the floor and before an audience, as when seated in his own chimney-corner, detailing the events of the day to the good wife and children.

In the next place, the occasional meetings strengthen neighborly feeling. Farmers live entirely too secluded a life; they visit little among each other, and seldom stray far from home, except to the store for groceries, or to the town-house to vote. Consequently, they lose much of that enjoyment which society affords, and unsocial (not misanthropic) habits grow upon them. To go out to spend an evening with a neighbor, is a matter for a month's discussion.—

*Because they are better educated friend King.
EDS. F. & P.

News travels slowly through an agricultural district: so does information. Farmers get behind the times. Now, for all these evils the Club offers a radical cure.

Thirdly, no American farmer can attend the meeting of a Club of his fellows, without receiving instruction. There is no one so well posted up in all that pertains to his profession, that his neighbors cannot enlighten him on some points, by the narration of their successes, or their failures:—for a failure conveys as good a lesson as the most complete success. Failures warn us from following example, as successes incite us to imitation. Then, again, one farmer may be an oracle on stock raising, another excels in tillage-crops, a third—perhaps this third man may be a mechanic or a clergyman, who has joined the Club for the benefit of his garden-patch or glebe—he is wise in horticultural-lore. These three Yankees cannot long occupy the same room without a barter of their intellectual commodities. The parson has swapped away a remedy against peach-borers, for an idea about raising carrots; the stock-breeder has given his friends a cure for garget, or taught them how to pop-out “warbles;” in return for which he carries home a new wrinkle about orchard-management, or the most economical way of draining his low lands, &c. &c.,

Fourthly, the Club induces men to study and to observe with accey, that they may have something to add to the common fund, in return for what they have received therefrom. This is human nature, that is, the human nature of honorable men;—we are not more willing that our comrades should teach us without pay. Then our pride spurs us on to show that we, too, have a contribution for the common stock, and if it does not happen to be on hand, we bestir ourselves to acquire it.

Fifthly, few enterprising men thus brought together once a week, or more or less often, to discuss a subject of common interest, will not long be contented with the narration of what they have done: they will cast about for new fields of exploration, or seek to enlarge the bounds of the old. Thus experiments will be suggested and agreed upon for a coming year; or a county fair will be proposed; or the foundations of other good works be firmly laid.

Sixthly, farmers seeing the results of combined effort, will be gradually led to value it, and to employ it in all matters in-

teresting to them as a class. One, and the only reason why the farmers of America are without power, is because they have never learned to act in concert. Touch the tariff, and the whole manufacturing interest is in a ferment; meddle with the slavery question, and North and South buzz like bees and hornets; impose upon artisans, and every city swarms with remonstrating mechanics. But the farmers though numerous are divided, and beaten in detail.

Seventhly, frequent meetings of farmers will have a tendency to wear away prejudices; which now, as a class they rather hug. He must be an unusually obstinate individual, who long resists evidence addressed to his ears and eyes, and arguments that appeal to his pocket.

[*Journal of Agriculture.*]

Improvement of Light Soils.

Very light soils are comparatively unproductive, in their natural state, from two causes; they are deficient in the elements of plants, and their mechanical texture is too loose to afford plants—especially in their early stages—a sufficiently firm hold. The former deficiency may be supplied by the application of the ordinary manures, but as such soils possess little or none of any substance which can hold manure combination, this remedy of itself is only temporary.—It has been proved by practical experiments, that clay possesses the power of retaining manures—the alkalies, as ammonia, potash and soda, readily combine with clay, and the gases which are emitted by decomposing animal and vegetable matters are absorbed by this substance. The alumni contained in clay constitutes its adhesive power. Hence, as a means of permanently improving light soils, clay is a substance of great value. It supplies a principle which prevents the waste of manures, and holds them in a situation to benefit crops to the greatest practicable degree, at the same time that it corrects the mechanical defect of the soil by imparting the requisite adhesiveness and solidity.

☞ All stiff clays are benefitted by fall and winter plowings, but should never be ploughed when wet.

☞ Remember that paint is one of the best known means of preserving implements, waggons, and wooden machines of all kinds.

Experiments on the Benefits and Products of Guano, compared to costs.

BY THOMAS JONES, JR.

I submit to the Virginia State Agricultural Society the following experiments on the benefits and products of Guano, compared to costs, and in doing so, I wish to be considered a competitor for the premium offered on that subject.

1st. The first week in October, 1850, I sowed on ten acres of fallowed land ten bushels of blue stem wheat, applying at the same time 200 lbs. of Peruvian guano per acre. The wheat and guano were both ploughed in together with single horse ploughs, and then harrowed. The yield was 240 bushels of good wheat, or 24 bushels per acre and to the seed of one. The land on which this experiment was made was very poor, and would not, under the most favorable circumstances, without the guano, have yielded five bushels to the acre. Two years before, it yielded less than a barrel and a half of corn per acre.—The guano cost me \$47 87½ the ton of 2240 lbs. delivered at my landing, or \$4 27½ per acre.

2d. Between the 1st and 15th of November, of the same year, I sowed on thirty acres of corn land twenty-five bushels of the early purple straw wheat, applying at the same time 190 lbs. of Peruvian guano per acre. Both the wheat and guano were ploughed in with single horse ploughs, and left just as the plough left them. The yield was 600 bushels of wheat, or twenty bushels per acre, and twenty-four bushels to one of seed. The land on which this experiment was made, was poorer than that on which the preceding experiment was made. The cost of the guano was the same per ton, and \$4 06 1-12 per acre.

3d. The last week in October, 1851, I sowed seven bushels of blue stem wheat on six acres of corn land, applying at the same time 225 lbs. of Peruvian guano per acre, and ploughing in both wheat and guano with single horse ploughs. The land was then rolled with a heavy log roller. The yield was 144 bushels of wheat, or twenty-four bushels per acre. This land would, probably, have produced five bushels per acre without the guano. The corn had been manured in the hill, and yielded about four barrels per acre. It was not measured.—The past summer this land was covered with clover knee high. The cost of the gu-

ano was \$49 00 per ton of 2240 lbs. or \$4 92 1-6 per acre.

4th. The last of September, 1852 I sowed on nineteen acres of land, which had been fallowed in July and August with a heavy two horse plough, twenty-three bushels of blue stem wheat, and applied at the same time 220 lbs. of Peruvian guano per acre.—Both wheat and guano were ploughed in as in the preceding experiments. The land had been harrowed before the wheat and guano were sowed. The yield was 529 bushels, or twenty-seven seven-nineteenth bushels per acre. This land consists of the ten acres mentioned in the first of these experiments and nine acres adjoining. About two-thirds of it was guanoed in the fall of '48, and the whole was guanoed in the fall of 1850. These previous applications of guano had greatly improved the land, and it would probably have yielded from eight to ten bushels of wheat without the aid of further manuring. The costs of the guano was \$43 32 per ton of 2000 lbs. or \$4 76½ per acre. It is proper that I should state, that the greater part of the wheat grown on this land (four-fifths of it) was exposed to the long rains which fell during the latter part of the summer, and a great deal of it was thrown away in the straw. The guano and wheat, in all of the above experiments, were ploughed in from two to three inches deep. No gypsum was used with the guano.

5th. In February and March of the present year, I sowed 1500 lbs. of Peruvian guano on nine acres and 17 perches of land, throwing it on the hard ground. I then threw the land up into four feet beds with a two horse plough. About one half of these beds had a two horse harrow run over them. About the middle of April I split the beds with a single horse plough and dropped the corn two feet apart in the furrow, covering it with a two horse harrow. The corn came up beautifully and stood well. When about half leg high, and when the land began to be very grassy, I threw the dirt from the corn with a single horse plough, and followed with a hoe as rapidly as possible, cutting away the grass and weeds and pulling the dirt around the corn where it had been left too naked by the plough. Ten days after, I threw the dirt back to the corn with the same plough, I broke the middles out entirely finishing the whole process before the 20th of June.—After harvest, I ran over it with the hoes,

chopping away the bunches of grass and weeds where they occurred and pulling off the suckers, of which there were not a few. At the first working of the corn it was thinned out to one stalk, except occasionally where the growing plants looked unusually vigorous, in which case two stalks were left in a hill. The nine acres and 17 perches yielded ninety barrels of corn, a specimen of which I have brought with me for exhibition. The cost of the guano was \$43 32 per ton of 2000 bls. or \$3 59 per acre. The quantity per acre 166 lbs. Eight acres of this land in 1847, the year that I bought it, yielded seven barrels of corn, less than a barrel to the acre. It has since been thrice dressed with guano for wheat, and about one-half of it has been limed. I gave for it \$6 33 per acre. The following figures show the profits per acre, after deducting the costs of the land, the costs of the guano, and the costs of cultivation:

10 barrels of corn, at \$3 per bbl.,	\$30 00
Fodder, shucks and stalks,	5 00

\$35 00

Cost of land,	\$6 33
Cost of guano,	3 59
Cost of cultivation,	5 00

14 92

Balance after paying for land, guano
and cultivation, \$20 08

THOMAS JONES, JR.

Richmond county, Va.

Wives and Carpets.

In the selection of a carpet, you should always prefer one with small figures, because the two webs of which the fabric consists are always more closely interwoven than carpeting where large figures are wrought.

There is a great deal of true philosophy in this, that will apply to matters widely different from the selection of carpets.

A man commits a sad mistake when he selects a wife that cuts too large a figure on the great green carpet of life—in other words, makes much display. The attractions fade out—the web of life becomes worn and weak, and all the gay figures that seemed so charming at first, disappear like summer flowers in autumn.

Many a man has made flimsey linsey-woolsey of himself, by striving to weave too large a figure, and finds himself worn out, used up, and like an old carpet hanging

on the fence, before he has lived out half his allotted days of usefulness.

Many a man wears out like a carpet that is never swept, by the dust of indolence.—Like that same carpet, he needs shaking or whipping—he needs activity, something to think of—something to do.

Look out, then, for the fate of the large figures, and there are those now stowed away in the garret of the world, awaiting their final consignment to the cellar, who, had they practiced this bit of carpet philosophy, would to-day be firm and bright as a Brussels fresh from the loom, and everybody exclaiming: It is wonderful how well they do!



The Farmer and Planter.

PENDLETON, S. C.

Vol. V., No. 4. : : : April, 1854.

Owing to our absence, some errors occurred in the proof-reading of Mr. B. V. IVERSON's answer to Broomsedge in our February number which will be obvious *as such* to every reader.

Maj. Spring's Plough.

Below we give our readers an engraving of this plow a description of which has heretofore been given. See May number for 1852, and only now because of the article of our friend "Broomsedge" in this number. We had not examined the "WORKING FARMER" for March, before receiving the communication, but on comparing the engravings we find the two to be very similar in the most important points. Prof MAPES does not claim the invention as we understand, him, however: He says—"We take pleasure in placing before our readers an engraving of a new sub-soil plow now being made by MESSRS. RUGGLES NOURSE, MASON & Co. of Boston and Worcester, Massachusetts, from a design furnished by ourselves."

(The italics ours)—He might have gone a little farther however, and added—*taken from the Farmer & Planter.*

Selection of Cotton Seed.

We welcome our new correspondent to a plan in our columns, and thank him for his excellent article on salting cotton seed. We have never been much of a planter, but have always believed that great advantage might be derived from a predacious selection of every kind of seed. We trust it will not be the last communication from our respected young friend.

A highly respected subscriber at Tallahassee Florida, writes us as below. We thank our friend for the hope that we may receive "a fair share of their patronage even in Florida, and shall endeavor to render our paper worthy of such patronage, in which effort our present subscribers in the land of flowers" can greatly assist us by their contributions, for who are so well calculated as many of them to render our columns the most instructive and interesting to the citizens of this Eldorado of the South.

We give in this number an excellent article from the pen of a native of old Abbeville we believe, and for many years one of the most honorable and highly respected citizens of Florida who has been a subscriber to the F. & P. since its commencement and who we hope will devote some of his future leisure moments to contributions for its columns—which we feel quite sure would strengthen its claims on his fellow citizens.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Enclosed are two dollars for my subscription to the FARMER & PLANTER, for the current year, and also for Col. E. H. at this office, to begin with the present volume. I greatly prefer the present form in which it is published and hope the FARMER & PLANTER will get a fair share of patronage, even in Florida. South Carolina is contributing liberally to its population, just now in the East & South, with a fair sprinkling in our middle District, generally agriculturists, who ought to help sustain yours and similar enterprises, and no doubt will, if you take pains to adapt a portion of your reading matter to them, in their changed circumstances, Yours respectfully.

B. F. W.

Tallahassee, March 25th. 1854.

Acknowledgments.

Our most worthy and highly respected friend W. S. D. of ~~N~~ Anchor is tendered our acknowledgments for his very polite encouraging communication. Such letters from such men, are in some degree calculated to flatter our vanity, but yet we may say are beneficial to our readers, as they stimulate us to renewed exertions, in the good cause, in which we are engaged, which entitles us to some consideration, from not only farmers and planters, but from all other classes of the community, for all are more or less interested in the success of our undertaking, and must feel the force of his remarks. "Your periodical should be in the hands of all who are not only directly but rather remotely connected with the subject of Agriculture—for it is the science which should interest all—the Lawyer, the Merchant, the Doctor, the Preacher, in fine all ought to feel and manifest an abiding interest in this the noblest of all sciences."

Book and Anti-Book Farmers---or Big corn and Little corn.

A friend writing us from Natural Grove P. O. S. C. after regretting that he had not succeeded in obtaining as many subscribers for the F. & P. as he desired, gives us the following.

I will tell you an anecdote, and you may publish it in the F. & P. if you choose. Sometime in '52 a friend of mine handed another two or three copies of the FARMER & PLANTER, requesting him at the same time to become a subscriber. He looked at it a little and then threw it down with considerable violence, and seemed to be enraged.—The past winter, '53 the same Gentleman purchased a corn sheller, and when he commenced to try to shell he could not get the cylinder to take hold of his nubbins they were so small. A subscriber to the F. & P. purchased one of the same kind, and when he commenced shelling the throat of the sheller was so small that his *large* ears could not run through without cutting the cob considerably."

We are not at all surprised at this for a man that is too illiberal to subscribe for an agricultural paper under pretence (and it is usually so) that he does not believe in "book farming" will never make large corn unless he happens to have land naturally fertile, for he will be too stingy even to manure his land. We had a man once to sell us his cotton seed to manure our wheat, while his own land

needed it more than ours. On our enquiring of him if he did not think he would do better by manuring his land with his cotton seed, than by selling them for 10 cents, his answer was, "no I never give the land anything but take all from it I can, there will be land enough, when I am dead and gone." And we would venture a wager that our friends *nubbin* man is just such another, indeed we much wonder that he ever bought a corn sheller but instead had not stuck to the basket and old pan handle.

Commercial Convention.

Below we give a copy of a circular, sent to many gentlemen of the Southern and Western States, by the committee of correspondence in Charleston. The convention will have taken place before our paper is issued, but we do hope and trust there will be a general attendance from the whole South and West, and we regret very much that it will be altogether out of our power to attend, we should take great pleasure in doing so, but pleasures must with us give way to unavoidable duties we have to perform. We have fallen behind with our paper, for which we are by a few of our subscribers somewhat blamed, though not blameable, and we must stay at home and endeavor to make the "amends honorable" for our apparent default.

"The Commercial Convention" says the *Richmond Enquirer* to be held on the second Monday in April next, in the City of Charleston, is beginning to attract a great share of the public attention throughout the South. The occasion is justly regarded as one of great interest and importance and every effort will be put forth to render the Convention successful in the attainment of the ends for which it is convened. These ends are of sufficient magnitude to give dignity to the assemblage, and to enlist the cordial co-operation of all men who love the South and its institutions.

Many desire to know the object the Convention has in view. One of the principal objects so far as we have been informed on the subject, is to bring about in a greater degree than has heretofore existed, at least, the commercial independence of the South, by devising means through which a direct communication between the Southern and foreign parts may be effected so as to enable the South to import merchandise directly to her own markets, without the intervention of Northern

importers. "One of its main duties should be to foster and encourage the direct importation of all commodities manufactured elsewhere than in the United States, which are ordinarily found in the stone houses of Southern merchants. This we hold to be pre-eminently important."

"Commercial independence is an impossibility, while our Southern merchants rely upon Northern importers for their supplies of foreign goods. To this fact alone we may attribute the wonderful changes which have wrought in the prospects of the cities in this country. Once the current of commerce set strongly toward the South, but a want of enterprise and energy, lost to her the treasures of the Continent. Northerners began to carry our commerce, and, almost before we became conscious of danger, transferred to their own cities the ballance of trade, and bound us to their interests. And so we have remained to this day, filling their purses by our contribution, and receiving in return curses and blows. And so it will ever be, until our people can procure the commodities they need without going to the North to obtain them. Until this is possible, the capital of the South will be taken, year by year, to the cities of the North, to be employed in making stronger the shackles which cramp and paralyze Southern enterprise."

"We hope for great results from the action of the Charleston Convention. The omens are all propitious, and if the Southern States will unite all their influence they may wrest from the North the commerce of the world. It only requires unity of purpose, unity of counsel, and unity of action. These we trust will prevail. The elements of strife and division which lowered over our Southern clime, when the Convention met in Nashville, have disappeared before the dawning of a brighter day for the South and Southern institutions.— We trust no cloud will arise, and that sloth will not lose us the advantages of the occasion."

CHARLESTON. S. C., }
Feb. 1. 1854 }

The Commercial Convention assembled at Memphis, in June last, adjourned to meet again in Charleston on the second Monday in April next, and the undersigned have been appointed, on behalf of the City Council and people of Charleston, to invite yourself and other distinguished gentlemen of the Southern and Western States, to be present with us on that occasion, and participate

in the deliberations of the Convention.

We have now the honor to convey that invitation to you, and to express the hope that we may have the pleasure of seeing you in Charleston on that interesting occasion, and of rendering to you the attentions and courtesies of our City.

H. W. CONNER, *Chairman.*

W. M. LAWTON,	S. Y. TUPPER,
O. MILLS,	WM. RAVENEL,
W. H. GILLILAND,	J. S. BOWIE,
E. L. ADAMS,	H. R. BANKS,

Committee of Correspondence.

For the Farmer and Planter.

MESSRS. EDITORS.—I noticed a communication in your January number, from Mr. E. Jenkins, of Mississippi, wishing to know how to get rid of the water willow. As I have had a little experience, and with good success I will give my plan if it will aid or be of any benefit to any person. In August, I take a small axe, and skin them about four feet, which is very easily done. They rarely put out the next spring, but if they do, skin them at the same time of the year, and your work is done. Out of a great many, but two or three have started this spring for me. Yours with respect.

R. Y. H. T.

For the Farmer and Planter.

Honor to whom, honor is due.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—In the May number 1852 of the FARMER & PLANTER, our friend Maj. Springs, of York, published an account of a new subsoil plow invented by him with an engraving of the same. In the September number of the "WORKING FARMER" '52 Professor Mapes alluded to this implement in the following language. "A new instrument of this kind" (subsoil plow) "is described in the FARMER & PLANTER, and as far as we may judge from a cursory examination of the description it promises to be a useful addition to the tool house. * * * * * The share being slightly dished at its lowest side, so that during its travel every particle of soil disintegrated by its point, will be gradually raised as it approaches the centre, and as gradually sinking back into its place before dropping off the diamond shaped share. * * * * * It may readily be conceived that the rising mass of earth will be separated by the configuration of the upper soil of the share before reclaiming the upright bar and therefore permitting it to pass through with ease. So far as we can judge without

a practical trial, we consider this superior to the plan invented by ourself, and now being manufactured so generally. We shall have one made at an early date, and be able to report further on its merits.

There is no work which we always read with more delight than the "WORKING FARMER!" Nor, is there a single individual in all yankee-doodledom for whom we entertained a higher respect than Professor Mapes. You may well imagine our surprise then, when we found in the March number of the WORKING FARMER "an engraving of a new sub-soil plow now being made by Messrs. Ruggles, Nourse, Mason & Co., of Boston and Worcester, Massachusetts, from a design furnished by ourselves." Now this plan is nothing more nor less than the plow of our friend R. A. S. The only difference being, his was wrought and this is cast. The description given of it, is almost identical, and it claims to do the work in the same way. The design may have been furnished by Professor Mapes, but he was indebted to the FARMER & PLANTER or our friend R. A. S. for it, and it was as little as he could have done to acknowledge it.

If any man in Yankee-doodledom had been fortunate enough to make such an improvement, all the Northern papers would have been full of it and there would have been a regular race for the Patent office.—As it is not often that our Southern planters receive credit for any improvement in morals or machinery, we shall insist upon having a little in as plain a case as this. It is an old adage, that even "the Devil should have his due." BROOMSEGE.

Big Branch, March, 17 1854.

Effects of Draining on the temperature of Soils.

All the rain that falls upon our fields must either be carried away by natural or artificial drainage, or having thoroughly saturated the soil on which it falls, be left on the surface to be carried off by evaporation.—Now, every gallon of water thus carried off by evaporation requires as much heat as would raise five and a half gallons from freezing to the boiling point. Without going to the extreme cases, the great effects of the heat thus lost upon vegetation cannot fail to be striking, and I have frequently found the soil of a field well drained higher in temperature from 10 to 15 degrees than that of another field which had not been

drained, though in every other respect the soils were similar. I have observed the effects of this on the growing crop, and I have seen not only a much inferior crop on the undrained field, but that crop harvested fully three weeks after the other; and, owing to this circumstance and the setting in of unsettled weather, I have seen that crop deteriorated fully 10 per cent in value. So says B. Simpson, in the Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society.

In addition to the above arguments in favor of under-draining, says Professor Mapes the lengthened season of growth may fairly be taken into account. A field in the latitude of New York, thoroughly under-drained is rendered thereby nearly as early as one in Philadelphia left in its natural state, so far as underdrains are concerned. We find corn crops on such fields ripen much earlier; and turnips and other late crops planted on thoroughly under-drained soils are not so soon arrested in their growth by winter frost.

In addition to this, we assert without fear of contradiction, that one third less manure of an organic kind will answer the purposes of a well under-drained acre, better than of one not so treated.—*Plow.*

Kicking Horses.

The following article on "Kicking Horses," may be of advantage to any of our subscribers who know what "twisted W. bits" or "thill lugs" are which we confess we do not. Eds. F. & P.

MR. EDITOR:—It occurred to me that a receipt published in your paper for the cure of kicking horses, might be of much service to persons afflicted with such dangerous animals. The operation for cure to be commenced as follows, to wit: Put on a head-stall or bridle, with twisted W. or twisted straight bitts in the mouth of the horse to be cured, then put on a common back-saddle with thill lugs, or any strap or girth, with loops on either side of the horse, is equally good; then buckle a pair of long reins, open in the middle, into the bitts, and pass them through the thill lugs or loops: one to each hind leg, above the fet-lock joint, there make each rein fast to the leg, allowing sufficient length of rein for your horse to walk or trot as the operator may think proper. Every thing complete, you will have the animal commence the operation of kicking; the first will be a smart kick, the second lighter, and soon till your horse cannot be made to

kick any more. By the above method many now worthless horses may be made valuable.—*Maine Farmer.*

The Ages of Animals.

The English Cyclopædia gives the following modes of determining the age of animals:

"Among domestic animals the age may be judged of by the presence, absence, or change of certain organs of the body. The age of the horse is known principally by the appearance of the incission teeth, or, as they are technically called, the nippers. In cattle with horns, the age is indicated more by the growth of these instruments than by the detrition and succession of the teeth.—The deer kind which shed the horns annually and in which, with the single exception of the reindeer, they are confined to the male sex, have them first in the shape of pickets without any branches or antlers; but each succeeding year adds one or more branches or antlers, according to the species, up to a certain fixed period, beyond which the age of the animal can only be guessed at, from the size of the horns and the thickness of the burr or knob at their roots which connects them with the skull. The horns of oxen, goats, or sheep, and antelopes, which are hollow and permanent, are of a different form, and grow in a different manner from those of the deer kind. These as is well known, consist of a hollow sheath of horn, which covers a bony core or process of the skull, and grows from the root, where it receives each year an additional knot or ring, the number of which is a sure indication of the animal's age. The growth of horns in these animals is by no means uniform through the whole year; but the increase at least in temperate climates takes place in spring, after which there is no further addition till the following season. In the cow kind the horns appear to grow uniformly during the first three years of the animal's life consequently, up to that age they are perfectly smooth and without wrinkles, but afterwards, each succeeding year adds a ring to the root of the horn, so that the age is determined by allowing three years for the point or smooth part of the horn, and one for each of the rings. In sheep or goats the smooth or top part counts for but one year, as the horns of these animals show their first knod or ring in the second year of their age; in the antelope

they probably follow the same rule, though we have very little knowledge of their growth and development in these animals. There are very few instances in which the age of animals belonging to other classes, can be determined by any general rules.—In birds it may sometimes be done by observing the form and wear of the bill; and some pretend to distinguish the age of fishes by their scales, but their methods are founded on hypothesis and entitled to no confidence."

Liquid Saleratus.—Put the salts into a bottle, and add water till nearly the whole is dissolved, and cork up for use. A little experience will show you the quantity to use, and it insures a perfect and uniform distribution of the alkali in every part of the flour, and avoids those unsightly and disagreeable tasting spots in biscuits, that can hardly be avoided when used in the other state.

Suffolk Hog.

It is stated in Youatt's treatise on the Pig, that there are no better swine in Great Britain than the improved Suffolks. Among the crosses of the native Suffolk which he specifies, are those of the Lincoln, the Berkshire and Chinese. A cross between the Suffolk and the Lincoln has led to a hardy progeny, which fatten well and will weigh from four to six hundred pounds. However, he gives preference to a cross between the Suffolk and Berkshire, or Chinese. He says these are well formed, compact, short legged, hardy animals, equal in value to the best of the Essex and superior in constitution, and consequently better adapted to the farmer. Those kept on the farm of Prince Albert, near Windsor, are of the improved Suffolk breed; that is, the Suffolk crossed with the Berkshire and Chinese. They are small in size, with round bulky bodies, short legs, small heads, and fat cheeks.—Those arising from the Berkshire and Suffolk are not so well shaped as those from the Chinese and Suffolk, being coarser, longer legged, and more prominent about the hips. They are almost white, with thin, fine hair; some are spotted, and all easily kept in fine condition; and having a decided aptitude to fatten early.

The Rev. Mr. Rham, author of the *Dictionary of Agriculture*, says the suffolk breed of pigs is perhaps, on the whole, the most

profitable of any in England. Several years ago, the late William Stickney, of Boston, introduced into our country this breed of animals; and although they have not become extensively diffused, the results thus far are highly satisfactory to all who have seen them. It was said by one gentleman highly competent to give a reliable opinion, that the pigs of this breed, at six weeks old, simply for being raised and fattened, are cheaper than the common country pigs at the usual prices. As the best ones have been generally kept for breeding, the statistics of those slaughtered are not numerous. A few of them will satisfy any reasonable person of their excellence. A Mr. McCormick, of New Hampshire, slaughtered one seven months and ten days old, that weighed three hundred and twenty-five pounds; a Mr. Stearns one, six months and ten days old, that weighed three hundred and ninety-four pounds; and Mr. Knapp, of Northampton, Mass., one, at fifteen months that weighed five hundred and fifteen pounds; and a Mr. Titecomb one, at nine months, that weighed three hundred and twenty-five pounds—also two at seven months and thirteen days which weighed two hundred and sixty-two, and two hundred and ninety-six pounds.

"Beyond all question, the Suffolk is the best breed of hogs that has ever been introduced into this country. Crosses with the Mackay, the Middlesex, and some other breeds, improve them in size and aid their breeding.

"Some of the three-fourths Suffolk are very fine hogs, and good breeders—and they seem to fatten as well as the full bloods.

"The quality of the pork, too, is a great point. We want none of the Berkshire blood for lean bacon, as tough and stringy as old beans.* The Suffolks are tender meat, and the skin is so thin that it may be cut without severing the plate on which it lies. It is agreed by most of our farmers that it requires twice as much food to fatten some kinds of hogs as others—yet they take but little care to breed from the best. It is extremely important to save one half the food that is fed out to hogs.

"The suffolk breed will be known ere long throughout our land. There is no mistaking their good qualities.

*We have not found the Berkshire so very tough and stringy.
Eds. F. & P.

About the Camel.

The want of pastures and fresh streams is very unfavorable to cattle, but the camel makes amends to the Tartars of the Ortous for the absence of the rest. It is the real treasure of the desert. It can remain fifteen days or even a month without eating or drinking; and however miserable the country, it always finds something to satisfy it, especially when the soil is impregnated with salt or nitre: plants that other animals will not touch, brambles, or even dry wood, serve it for food. Yet little as it costs to keep, the camel is more useful than can be imagined out of the countries where Providence has placed it. Its ordinary burden is seven or eight hundred weight, and thus laden it can go forty miles a day. In many Tartar countries they are used to draw the coaches of the kings or princes; but this only be on flat ground, for their fleshy feet would not permit them to ascend hills and draw a carriage after them.

Notwithstanding this softness of its foot, however, the camel can walk over the roughest roads, stones, sharp thorns, roots of trees, etc., without being hurt. But if obliged to walk too far, the real sole of its foot wears out, and the flesh is laid bare.—The Tartars, under such circumstances, make it shoes of sheep-skin; but if after this the journey is still much prolonged, the creature lies down and must be abandoned.

There is nothing the camel dreads so much as a wet marshy soil. When it places its foot on mud and finds it slip, it begins to stagger like a drunken man, and often falls heavily upon its side. Every year, toward the spring, the camel loses its hair, and it all goes to the last fragment before the new comes on. For about twenty days it is as naked as if it had been clean shaved from head to tail; and then it is extremely sensitive to cold and rain. You may see it shiver all over, like a man exposed to cold without clothes. But by degrees the hair grows again; at first it is extremely fine and beautiful, and when it is once more long and thick the camel can brave the severest frost. It delights them to march against the north wind, or standing on the top of a high hill, to be beaten by the tempest and breathe the freezing air. Naturalists have sometimes said that camels cannot live in cold countries; but they could hardly have meant to speak of Tartar camels, which the least heat exhausts, and which certainly

could not bear the climate of Arabia.

The fur of an ordinary camel weighs ten pounds; it is sometimes as soft as silk.—That which the entire animal has under his neck and along its legs is rough, tufted and black; but the hair in general is reddish or gray. Tartars do not take care of it, but suffer it, when it falls off, to be lost. In the place where the camels feed you may often see great bunches of it, like old rags, blowing about, and sometimes, in the hollows and corners of the hills, large quantities will be drifted by the wind. But it is never picked up, or only a small portion of it, to make a coarse sort of sacks and carpets.

The milk of the camel is excellent both for butter and cheese: the flesh is tough, ill-flavored, and little esteemed by the Tartars. They make use, however, of the hump, which they cut in slices and take with their tea.

It is said that Heliogabalus had camel's flesh served at his banquets, and, that he was especially partial to the food. Of this latter dainty, which the emperor had the glory of discovering, we cannot speak; but we can affirm from our own experience, that the flesh of the camel is detestable.

[*Huc's Journey through Tartary.*]

DEPTH OF ROOTS.—Linus Cone, of Michigan, states in Moore's *New Yorker*, as the result of all his examinations, that he has invariably found the roots of grass, grain, vegetables, fruit and forest trees, occupying *all the soil*, no matter what was its depth.—He has taken out stumps where the roots penetrated a hard clay more than eight feet, and has gathered wheat roots by the handful, in a drain more than three feet beneath the surface. He hence infers that the deeper the soil can be plowed, and rendered friable and fertile, the better.

ARTICHOKES.—For stock feeding, we know of no root which is better fitted as a substitute for the potatoe than this. In nutritive properties, weight for weight, it may be considered as its equal, whereas, in productive capacity, it is many times its superior. A lot assigned to artichokes should be kept for this culture alone, as when once planted they remain for years. Manure as for corn, plant four by two feet apart, keep them clean as you would—or ought—a crop of corn, and they will not fail to yield you some 500 bushels of roots.